



PATENT
Customer Number 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 06556.0003-03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
John POLK)
Serial No.: 09/973,865) Group Art Unit: 3629
Filed: October 11, 2001) Examiner: John Weiss
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS)
FOR CHILD SUPPORT)
PAYMENT PROCESSING AND)
CHILD SUPPORT)
DISBURSEMENT)
PROCESSING)

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JUN 8 2004

GROUP 3600

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

DECLARATION OF RICHARD VESPER UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.131

1. I, Richard ("Dick") Vesper, worked with John Polk at Lockheed Martin IMS Corporation from prior to October 16, 1996 until after September 30, 1997. My job title was Vice-President, Lockheed Martin IMS.

2. Mr. Polk is the inventor of the subject matter of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/941,187, filed September 30, 1997 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,946,669), the great-grandparent application to the subject application. I have read the document titled Declaration of John Polk Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 and, to the best of my knowledge, attest to its accuracy where it refers to my actions. My actions are set forth in detail below.

3. In September or October 1996, I contacted Mr. Polk and encouraged him to consider seeking patent protection for his invention, which I understand is described in the '669 patent and the subject application.

4. On or around October 15, 1996, I spoke with Mr. Polk about his invention for processing child support payments and urged him to keep records of the development and progress of his invention. He agreed to do so.

5. Between October 15 and November 13, 1996, I contacted Mr. Polk again and requested that he prepare a brief written description of his invention that I could give to Lockheed Martin's counsel to evaluate for patentability.

6. On or around November 13, 1996, Mr. Polk gave me a short written description, which I passed on to Mr. John Morrissey, who was Deputy Associate General Counsel of Intellectual Property at Lockheed Martin.

7. On or around Wednesday, April 2, 1997, I participated in a telephone conference with Mr. Polk, and two patent attorneys, Thomas Martin, Esq. and Lionel Lavenue, Esq., to discuss the details of the patent application. On or around Friday, April 4, 1997, I met with Mr. Polk, Mr. Martin, and Mr. Lavenue to discuss additional details of the patent. Later that day, Mr. Polk contacted me and we further discussed the patent application process.

8. On or around April 8, 1997, I held a telephone conference with Mr. Martin regarding a patentability search to be performed.

9. Based on information and belief and on my review of the '669 patent (the grandparent of the present application), the '669 patent was filed as an application in the U.S. Patent Office on September 30, 1997.

10. I declare further that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that the statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patents issuing thereon.

Dated: 1 JUNE '04

By: Richard Vesper
Richard Vesper